## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

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first of all, I would never want them to be getting themself in a position where they got pregnant. And I would never want them in a position where they were considering an abortion, frankly. But it does happen. And I have to tell you that some of these very young children are in very dangerous situations. They may have a stepfather, for instance, who impregnated them. I mean, there are all kinds of scenarios out there. And part of the reason that this body passed the original bill, LB 425, was that it would encourage families to communicate with each other, that was one of the purposes of it, and that that's why the physician who was going to provide the abortion, or was asked to provide it, had to notify those parents...parent or parents before that could ever take place, because the state said in that bill they didn't want these children making that decision on their own. But there was also very, very lengthy debate about the children who are in very bad homes, and what would happen to them. And so one of the things that came out in that discussion was that these children--and they are children at 12 and 13 years of age--needed to have the information. I would like to read for you all just a bit of what Senator Withem had to say at one point in the debate. And he said, it may shock you that there are very few 16-year-olds out there that subscribe to the <u>Unicameral Update</u>, very few of them that get the Revised Statutes of the state of Nebraska mailed out to How are these people going to find out? Suggestion was them. that the people in the schools take on the function of notifying them of what this law is all about. I introduced an amendment. got a lot of phone calls, as I indicated before, saying all Senator Withem is trying to do is turn this procedure into an advertisement for the judicial bypass procedure. Certainly it was not my intent. I went back and read the amendment, and I said, by golly, they might be right, because there was in the original drafting of this amendment probably a bit of a bias on supplying more information about judicial bypass than about the provision that if a young woman gets pregnant when she is a minor, that she is going to have to notify her parents. As I said, I read that amendment, and redrafted it, and took out all the specific references to telling them where the judge is, telling them how to go about applying for the judicial bypass procedure. What this amendment does...and I'm going to read it to you for the record, because not many of you have read it; you